

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting the interaction of an insect G-protein coupled receptor ~~a heterologous protein~~ with an endogenous signaling cascade of an erythroid cell comprising the steps of; transforming an erythroid cell according to claim 7 with a vector comprising a sequence which encodes an insect G-protein coupled receptor under the control of a globin promoter, and measuring the cyclic AMP levels or the free calcium ion concentration within the cell.

~~conducting an assay to detect said protein interaction, wherein said erythroid cell is substantially undifferentiated, but which is capable of expressing a heterologous protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the erythroid cell is a murine erythroleukaemia cell.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) An isolated erythroid cell produced by the method of claim 7, which cell is ~~substantially undifferentiated~~ by which is capable of expressing proteins under the control of a globin promoter thereof ~~at levels which allow the method in accordance with claim 4.~~

6. (Currently amended) The isolated erythroid cell according to claim 30 ~~[[5]]~~ which comprises a cell as deposited at the European Collection of Cell Cultures under Accession number 99012801.

7. (Currently amended) A method of producing an ~~[[the]]~~ erythroid cell ~~according to claim 5~~ which is undifferentiated but which is capable of expressing a protein under the control of a globin promoter thereof, which method comprises maintaining and growing uninduced erythroid cells in culture for a sufficient period of time that said protein is expressed, and isolating a subclone which expresses said protein under the control of a globin promoter.

8-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The isolated erythroid cell according to claim [[5]] 6 which is transformed with a vector comprising a sequence which encodes an insect G-non-mammalian protein coupled receptor under the control of a globin promoter.

27. (Currently amended) The isolated erythroid cell according to claim 26 which has been further transformed such that it contains a globin promoter associated with a ~~cloning site or~~ reporter cassette containing a ~~reporter gene, such as the~~ β -galactosidase gene[[,]] under the control of a response element susceptible to modulation by a signaling cascade ~~used in of said cellan assay.~~

28. (Currently amended) The isolated erythroid cell according to claim [[26]] 27 wherein said response element is the Locus control Region (LCR) enhancer, which further comprises an wherein said enhancer[[,]]able to increase expression of a gene placed under the control of said globin promoter and is at an optimal distance of said reporter cassette such that the expression of the β -galactosidase gene is dependent on the concentration of a ~~particular~~ downstream component in the signaling cascade.

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The isolated erythroid cell according to claim 5 wherein said cell is a murine erythroleukaemia cell.

31. (New) A method for detecting the interaction of an insect G protein-coupled receptor with an endogenous signaling cascade of an erythroid cell comprising the steps of: providing the erythroid cell according to claim 27 or 28, and measuring the expression levels of the β -galactosidase gene.